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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/529,299

Applicant(s)

IWANAGA, KAZUHIKO

Examiner

WILSON TSUI

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This final action is in response to the amendment filed on: 07/28/09.
2. Claims 1-36 are cancelled. Claims 37-43, 45, 46, 48-50, and 52-72 are amended. Claims 37 and 56 are independent claims. Claims 37-72 are pending.
3. With regards to claims 56-72, the 35 USC 101 rejections are withdrawn, as necessitated by applicant's amendment.
4. The following rejections are withdrawn, in view of new grounds of rejection necessitated by applicant's amendments:
 - Claims 37-41, 43-47, 55-60, 62-64, and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kerr.
 - Claims 42, 48-54, 61, and 65-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerr, in further view of King et al.

Priority

5. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), with respect to Japanese patent application No. 2002-282728 (filed September 27, 2002), and Japanese patent application No. 2003-087546 (filed March 27, 2003). The certified copies have been filed in parent Application No. 10529299, filed on 03/25/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 37-41, 43-47, 55-60, 62-64, and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerr (US Application: 2003/0023627 A1, published: Jan. 30, 2003, filed: Jul. 26, 2001) in view of Nitta et al (US Application: US 2002/0144055, published: Oct. 3, 2002, filed: Mar. 29, 2002, EEFD: Mar. 30, 2001).

With regards to claim 37, Kerr teaches a text editing device comprising:

a character information storage system that stores a character string as text data

(Fig 2: whereas, the character string is stored/placed in a field, as string data);

a character size storage system that stores a size of each character included in the character string stored in the character information storage system (paragraph 0043: whereas a storage system stores/keeps track character length/size, by comparing the length determined in block 226 with the default length of it's respective text fill box. Furthermore, font size is also variable if copy fitting is required, as explained in paragraph 0045);

a frame configuration storage system that stores a dimensions of a frame in which the character string stored in the character information storage system is displayed or printed (Fig 2: whereas, a text fill box, is a type of frame configuration

storage system, that stores a configuration of a text fill box (paragraph 0043: default length is a value for a frame), the frame/text fill box, having a particular configuration and layout in a document as well);

an operation mode setting system that sets an operation mode, specifying a status of displaying or printing of the character string stored in the character information storage system in the frame when an editing operation is executed, to operation modes including at least a frame dimension fixed state (Fig 2: whereas, a display status is specifies using apply changes to document command, the frame configuration having a fixed dimension configuration/layout state in a document, such that copy fitting can be used to adjust content , such as font size, in order to fit in a frame);

a character size alteration system that alters memory contents of the character size storage system so that the character string stored in the character information storage system will fit in the frame in cases where the operation mode setting system has set the operation mode to the frame dimension fixed state (paragraph 0045: whereas a character having font size is altered, such that the character string will fit in the frame/fill box. The operation/copy-fit mode, will always have a fixed State set, whereas the frame/fill box has a fixed position/layout state in a document); and

However, although Kerr teaches a frame dimension state, Kerr does not expressly teach that the dimension state includes *a frame configuration alteration system that alters memory contents of the frame configuration storage system so that the character string stored in the character information storage system will fit in the*

frame in cases where the operation mode setting system has set the operation mode to the frame dimension alterable state.

Yet, Nitta et al teaches the frame dimension state includes a *frame configuration alteration system that alters memory contents of the frame configuration storage system so that the character string stored in the character information storage system will fit in the frame in cases where the operation mode setting system has set the operation mode to the frame dimension alterable state* (paragraph 0200: whereas, a frame's dimensions are altered to accommodate character data up to a certain fixed condition (such as overlap)).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the art to have modified Kerr's method for flowing text within a fixed dimensioned frame, to have a fixed and alterable state, such that the alterable state, alters a frame's dimensions to fit character data, as taught by Nitta et al. The combination would have allowed Kerr to have "prevented a layout intended by a designer from being destroyed" (Nitta et al: paragraph 0012).

With regards to claim 38, which depends on claim 37, Kerr teaches wherein the character size alteration system includes:

a size comparison system which compares a size of a whole character string when a newly inputted character string is additionally displayed or printed in the character size stored in the character size storage system with a size of the frame determined by the frame configuration stored in the frame configuration storage system

each time a character string is stored in the character information storage system in the case where the operation mode has been set to the frame fixed state by the operation mode setting system (paragraph 0042, 0043: whereas, a text fill 203 is checked for removal or addition of character(s), such that size/length of characters in the fill box are compared against the default frame size); and

a judging system which judges whether the size of the whole character string when the newly inputted character string is additionally displayed or printed in the character size stored in the character size storage system fits in the frame based on the comparison by the size comparison system (paragraph 0043: whereas, a comparison is performed to determine if the character size fits into a frame/fill box),

wherein when the judging system judges that the size of the whole character string does not fit in the frame, the character size alteration system alters the memory contents of the character size storage system so that the size of each character of the whole character string including the newly inputted character string will be reduced to a size within a range allowing the character string stored in the character information storage system to fit in the frame (0048: whereas sizing is adjusted/reduced to a range allowing the character string to fit in the frame).

With regards to claim 39, which depends on claim 38, Kerr teaches wherein:

the frame configuration storage system stores a width of the frame as the size of the frame (paragraph 0043: whereas, the width of the frame is the default length of the fill box), and

the size comparison system compares a length of the whole character string when the newly inputted character string is additionally displayed or printed in the character size stored in the character size storage system in a column-increasing direction with the width of the frame stored in the frame configuration storage system each time a character string is stored in the character information storage system (paragraph 0042, 0043: whereas the width of the frame can be the default length of the frame, characters can be added in a column-increasing direction (horizontal-direction) by appending/adding characters.).

With regards to claim 40, which depends on claim 38, Kerr teaches wherein:

the frame configuration storage system stores a height of the frame as the size of the frame (Fig 2: whereas the frame/fill box is shown to have a particular height), and

the size comparison system compares a length of the whole character string when the newly inputted character string is additionally displayed or printed in the character size stored in the character size storage system in a line-increasing direction with the height of the frame stored in the frame configuration storage system each time character string is stored in the character information storage system (whereas, based Fig 2, text can be wrapped in a line-increasing direction, and the length of the whole character string is compared to a default length specifically associated with the a text fill box having a particular height and width).

With regards to claim 41, which depends on claim 37, Kerr teaches *wherein the character size alteration system alters the memory contents of the character size storage system so that the character string stored in the character information storage system will fit in the frame also in cases where the frame configuration stored in the frame configuration storage system is altered and at the same time the operation mode is changed from the frame dimension alterable state to the frame dimension fixed state by the operation mode setting system* (paragraph 0042, 0043, 0048: whereas, the operation mode can be changed to an alterable state, by altering character size to fit in a frame, when frame configuration is under copy fitting/altering modes. The state of operation changing based upon length of data input by user in text input box).

With regards to claim 43, which depends on claim 37, Kerr teaches *further comprising a line feed position storage system for storing line feed position information to be used for displaying or printing the character string stored in the character information storage system while starting new lines at intended positions* (whereas the line feed/wrap position is determined by the boundary of a fill box),

wherein the character size alteration system alters the memory contents of the character size storage system so that the whole character string stored in the character information storage system will fit in the frame also in cases where the operation mode has been set to the frame dimension fixed state and the line feed position information has been stored in the line feed position storage system (paragraph 0042: whereas, a

whole character string is wrapped to fit within a fill box when the string is not greater than default length, as shown in Fig 2).

With regards to claim 44, which depends on claim 37, Kerr teaches *wherein the text editing device is configured as a label writer* (whereas, as shown in Fig. 2, an Advertisement is labeled as 'Home for Sale').

With regards to claim 45, which depends on claim 37, Kerr teaches *wherein the editing operation includes a text input operation and a line feed operation* (Fig 2: whereas text can be input, and line feeds happen at fill box boundaries).

With regards to claim 46, which depends on claim 37, Kerr teaches *further comprising an operation mode display controlling system for displaying a screen image, indicating a change in a text display status at a point when the editing operation is executed, depending on the operation mode set by the operation mode setting system* (Fig 2: whereas, a screen image is used to display text status during editing).

With regards to claim 47, which depends on claim 46, Kerr teaches *wherein the operation mode display controlling system indicates text display statuses before and after the editing operation by displaying images corresponding to the frame depending on the operation mode set by the operation mode setting system* (Fig 2: whereas, a

display control system indicates before apply changes, and also a preview of after applying changes to document).

With regards to claim 55, which depends on claim 37, Kerr teaches *wherein the operation mode setting system sets the operation mode to the frame dimension fixed state when the frame is newly inputted* (Fig 4: whereas, upon initial startup, the frame has no text, and the frame dimensions are set to use just static configuration such as layout position of the frame).

With regards to claim 56, Kerr and Nitta et al teaches a computer-readable medium storing a computer-executable program comprising instructions that cause a computer to function as:

a character information storage system that stores a character string as text data; a character size storage system that stores a size of each character included in the character string stored in the character information storage system; a frame configuration storage system that stores dimensions of a frame in which the character string stored in the character information storage system is displayed or printed; an operation mode setting system that sets an operation mode, specifying a status of displaying or printing of the character string stored in the character information storage system in the frame when an editing operation is executed, to operation modes including at least a frame dimension fixed state and a frame dimension alterable state; a character size alteration system that alters memory contents of the character size

storage system so that the character string stored in the character information storage system will fit in the frame in cases where the operation mode setting system has set the operation mode to the frame dimension fixed state; and a frame configuration alteration system that alters memory contents of the frame configuration storage system so that the character string stored in the character information storage system will fit in the frame in cases where the operation mode setting system has set the operation mode to the frame dimension alterable state, as similarly explained in the rejection for claim 37, and is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 57, which depends on claim 56, for a character size alteration system, that is performing a method similar to the method performed in claim 38, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 58, which depends on claim 57, for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 40, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 59, which depends on claim 57, for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 39, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 60, which depends on claim 56 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 41, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 62, which depends on claim 56 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 43, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 63, which depends on claim 56 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 46, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 64, which depends on claim 63 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 47, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 72, which depends on claim 56 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 55, is rejected under similar rationale.

7. Claims 42, 48-54, 61, and 65-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerr (US Application: 2003/0023627 A1, published: Jan. 30, 2003,

filed: Jul. 26, 2001), in view of Nitta et al (US Application: US 2002/0144055, published: Oct. 3, 2002, filed: Mar. 29, 2002, EEFD: Mar. 30, 2001), and further in view of King et al (US Patent: 5,956,737, issued: Sep. 21, 1999, filed: Sep. 9, 1996).

With regards to claim 42, which depends on claim 37, Kerr teaches *wherein when the operation mode has been set to the frame dimension fixed state and character sizes of characters of different sizes have been stored in the character size storage system, the character size alteration system alters the memory contents of the character size storage system, so that the character string stored in the character information storage system will fit in the frame*, as similarly explained in the rejection for claim 37, and is rejected under similar rationale.

However, Kerr does not expressly teach *while maintaining size ratios among the different character sizes stored in the character size storage system*.

Yet, King et al teaches *while maintaining size ratios among the different character sizes stored in the character size storage system* (column 2, lines 60 - 67: *whereas, a scale factor is associated per content type*).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kerr's characters size storage system, such that size ratios are maintained among different character sizes, as taught by King et al. The combination of Kerr, Nitta et al, and King et al would have allowed Kerr to have "determined how content elements fit within a rendering space" (King et al, column 3, lines 10-15).

With regards to claim 48, which depends on claim 37, Kerr teaches a *frame configuration* having a *frame height*, as similarly explained in the rejection for claim 37, and is rejected under similar rationale.

However, Kerr does not expressly teach *wherein the operation mode setting system can set the operation mode to a frame height variable operation mode for displaying or printing the character string stored in the character information storage system to fit in the frame in a state where the frame dimension stored in the frame configuration storage system is alterable only in a frame height direction which is a line-increasing/decreasing direction when the editing operation is executed, as an operation mode included in the frame dimension alterable state.*

Yet, King et al teaches *wherein the operation mode setting system can set the operation mode to a frame height variable operation mode for displaying or printing the character string stored in the character information storage system to fit in the frame in a state where the frame dimension stored in the frame configuration storage system is alterable only in a frame height direction which is a line-increasing/decreasing direction when the editing operation is executed, as an operation mode included in the frame dimension alterable state*(King et al, column 34, lines 65-67, and column 35, lines 1-7: Fig 25-27: frame configuration is height and width alterable depending upon media division settings in an selected column increasing/decreasing, or line increasing/decreasing direction).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kerr's frame configuration, such that the frame configuration further stores variable frame height data, as taught by King et al. The combination of Kerr, Nitta et al, and King et al would have allowed Kerr to have "adjusted content in a suitable fashion in order to fit it to the required media region" (King et al, column 35, lines 1-3) and "allowed a particular region of a medium to be split into other related regions" (King et al: column 27, lines 54-57).

With regards to claim 49, which depends on claim 37, the combination of Kerr, Nitta et al, and King et al teaches *wherein the operation mode setting system can set the operation mode to a frame width variable operation mode for displaying or printing the character string stored in the character information storage system to fit in the frame in a state where the frame configuration stored in the frame configuration storage system is alterable only in a frame width direction which is a column-increasing/decreasing direction when the editing operation is executed, as an operation mode included in the frame dimension alterable state*, as similarly explained in the rejection for claim 48, and is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 50, which depends on claim 37, the combination of Kerr, Nitta et al, and King et al teaches *wherein the operation mode setting system can set the operation mode to a two-direction variable operation mode for displaying or printing the character string stored in the character information storage system to fit in the frame*

in a state where the frame configuration stored in the frame configuration storage system is alterable both in a line-increasing/decreasing direction and in a column-increasing/decreasing direction when the editing operation is executed, as an operation mode included in the frame dimension alterable state, as similarly explained in the rejection for claim 48, and is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 51, which depends on claim 37, Kerr teaches *the operation mode*, as similarly explained in the rejection for claim 37, and is rejected under similar rationale.

However, Kerr does not expressly teach the operation mode *setting system makes an initial setting of the operation mode depending on a print medium on which the character string stored in the character information storage system will be printed.*

Yet, King et al teaches *wherein the operation mode setting system makes an initial setting of the operation mode depending on a print medium on which the character string stored in the character information storage system will be printed* (King et al, Abstract: whereas, operation mode is dependent upon a chosen medium.).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kerr's operation mode content layout system, such that the operation mode would have depended upon a print medium, as taught by King et al. The combination would have allowed Kerr to have "adjusted content in a suitable fashion in order to fit it to the required media region"

With regards to claim 52, which depends on claim 51, Kerr teaches *operation mode setting*, as similarly explained in the rejection for claim 37, and is rejected under similar rationale.

However, Kerr does not expressly teach *wherein the operation mode setting system initially sets the operation mode to the frame dimension fixed state when the print medium on which the character string stored in the character information storage system will be printed is a tape-like print medium and size of a print area of the tape-like print medium in its longitudinal direction is preset*.

Yet, King et al teaches *wherein the operation mode setting system initially sets the operation mode to the frame dimension fixed state when the print medium on which the character string stored in the character information storage system will be printed is a tape-like print medium and size of a print area of the tape-like print medium in its longitudinal direction is preset* (column 34, lines 65-67, and column 35, lines 1-7: *whereas, frame configuration can be in a fixed state*).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kerr's operation mode, such that it would have further included a particular frame configuration for a specified print medium, as taught by King et al. The combination of Kerr, Nitta et al, and King et al would have allowed Kerr to have "adjusted content in a suitable fashion in order to fit it to the required media region" (King et al, column 35, lines 1-3).

With regards to claim 53, which depends on claim 49, Kerr teaches *operation mode setting*, as similarly explained in the rejection for claim 37, and is rejected under similar rationale.

However, Kerr does not expressly teach *wherein the operation mode setting system initially sets the operation mode to the frame width variable operation mode when the print medium on which the character string stored in the character information storage system will be printed is a tape-like print medium and a size of a print area of the tape-like print medium in its longitudinal direction is not preset*.

Yet, King et al teaches *wherein the operation mode setting system initially sets the operation mode to the frame width variable operation mode when the print medium on which the character string stored in the character information storage system will be printed is a tape-like print medium and a size of a print area of the tape-like print medium in its longitudinal direction is not preset* (column 34, lines 65-67, and column 35, lines 1-7: whereas, longitudinal direction may be expandable).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kerr's operation mode, such that it would have further included a particular frame configuration, in variable mode, when it's longitudinal direction is not preset, as taught by King et al. The combination of Kerr, Nitta et al, and King et al would have allowed Kerr to have "adjusted content in a suitable fashion in order to fit it to the required media region" (King et al, column 35, lines 1-3).

With regards to claim 54, which depends on claim 48, Kerr teaches *operation mode setting*, as similarly explained in the rejection for claim 37, and is rejected under similar rationale.

However, Kerr does not expressly teach *wherein the operation mode setting system initially sets the operation mode to the frame height variable operation mode when the print medium on which the character string stored in the character information storage system will be printed is a print medium having a size in the line-increasing/decreasing direction larger than a size in a column-increasing/decreasing direction*.

Yet, King et al teaches *wherein the operation mode setting system initially sets the operation mode to the frame height variable operation mode when the print medium on which the character string stored in the character information storage system will be printed is a print medium having a size in the line-increasing/decreasing direction larger than a size in a column-increasing/decreasing direction* (column 34, lines 65-67, and column 35, lines 1-7: whereas, a medium can have variable frame height when line increasing/decreasing direction is larger than size in a column increasing/decreasing direction, such as in web page layout of Fig 16).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kerr's operation mode, such that it would have further included a height variable operation mode when the print medium is a longer vertical dimension than a horizontal dimension. The combination of Kerr, Nitta et al, and King et al would have allowed Kerr to have "adjusted content in a suitable fashion in order to fit

it to the required media region" (King et al, column 35, lines 1-3).

With regards to claim 61, which depends on claim 56 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 42, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 65, which depends on claim 56 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 48, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 66, which depends on claim 56 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 49, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 67, which depends on claim 56 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 50, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 68, which depends on claim 56 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 51, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 69, which depends on claim 56 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 52, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 70, which depends on claim 66 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 53, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 71, which depends on claim 65 , for a system that is performing a method similar to the method that is performed in claim 54, is rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 37-72 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WILSON TSUI whose telephone number is (571)272-7596. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2178

/Wilson Tsui/
Patent Examiner
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November 19, 2009